Generating Set for Hydro Power Project

3409. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to procure/import or manufacture the generating sets and equipments to be installed for hydro power projects under the Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the time by which installation was scheduled to be completed and how far the same has been delayed, indicating the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/propose to be taken to expedite the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) The Unilateral decision of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan to suspend the release of further instalment of loan after disbursement of first slice of Yen 2.85 billion in 1986 due to certain environmental considerations, created an empasse in the procurement of Turbo Generating Sets for River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar Project. The delivery of these equipments were originally scheduled between December, 1990 to June, 1994 and installation by August, 1995. However, to sort out the deadlock, several meetings were held at varius levels, both in the State and in this Ministry with all concerned. On 13th November, 1996, a meeting of the Review Committee of Narmada Control Authority (RCNCA) was held. Accordingly, a negotiating team has already been set up by this Ministry to hold talks with M/s. Sumitomo Corporation, Japan, the suppliers of the TG Sets for the Project.

Aloka Palace, Mysore as Museum

3410. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Aloka Palace near Mysore is being used at present by the Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts;

(b) if so, whether the Government are giving any assistance to it;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to set up a museum in Aloka Palace;

(d) if so, whether the Karnataka Government are willing to hand over the Palace for museum; and

(e) if so, the type of museum proposed to be set up in the Aloka Palace?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) As per information furnished by the Government of Karnataka, Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts (CAVA), an Art Institution of Government of Karnataka has been in possession of Aloka Building near Mysore.

(b) The Government of Karnataka runs the Institution and financial assistance of Rs. 20 lakhs and Rs. 6.81 lakhs under Plan and Non-Plan respectively has been provided during 1996-97 by the Government of Karnataka.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Since Aloka Building is within the reserved forest area in Sy. No. 265 of Yelwala Village, Mysore Taluk, Mysore District, the Forest Dept. of Government of Karnataka in view of the Supreme Court Judgement in W.P. (Civil) 202/95 has taken an objection for non-forest activity there, and has insisted for the transfer of the said building to the forest Department, for their activities.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply of part (c) of the question.

Nehru Yuvak Kendras in Karnataka

3411. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various projects and works taken up and completed by Nehru Yuvak Kendras in Karnataka during the last three years and till-date, year-wise;

(b) the plans, projects and proposals of the Nehru Yuvak Kendras for 1997-98, Kendra-wise;

(c) the sources of income of Nehru Yuvak Kendras to run the activities; and

(d) the base on which assistance is being provided to such Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Minority Communities in Sri Lanka

3412. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the ordeals faced by the minority communities in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) The Government are not aware of ordeals faced by all minority communities in Sri Lanka. However, Government are aware that continued conflict in some areas of Sri Lanka has created acute difficulties

for the people of that country, including in particular, the Sri Lankan Tamil minority community.

(c) The policy of the Government is consistent and well known. India has always stood for a peaceful political solution of this issue.

Security of Indians Abroad

3413. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the families of India Origin settled in foreign countries including Afghanistan have been targetted by soldiers/civilians in those countries during the last three years;

(b) if so, the country-wise details thereof;

(c) the number of people of Indian origin whose houses have been looted and then were asked to leave the country and the number of people of Indian origin out of them have came back to India so far during the period;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to save the life and property of these people in those countries including Afghanistan; and

(e) the number of people of Indian origin who have come back to India after the eruption of disturbance in these countries including Afghanistan and the extent of assistance and facilities provided to them so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (e) The incidents of looting and attacks can be placed in two broad categories - one, where the overall law and order situation breaks down and civil war conditions arise in which case the population of Indian origin suffers as much as other foreign nationals, as indeed the local population also. The other situation arises where the Indian community is specifically targetted for some reason. So far as Indian origin population being affected in the first category is concerned, Government takes all possible measures to help them in their evacuation and subsequently makes efforts to get compensation payments on their behalf. Afghanistan comes in the first category. Similar disturbances also took place in Liberia and Sierra Leone during 1995-96 but there were no specific incidents of looting or harassment. Most Indian origin people from Liberia numbering about 250 were evacuated safely with the help of our Missions in Sierra Leone (Honorary Consul), Abidjan, Dakar and Accra. As for the second category, the Government have been taking up the matter strongly with the concerned authorities to get justice for the population of Indian origin residing abroad. The incidents which took place in Zambia, Kenya and Uganda come under this category. Country-wise details are as under :

AFGHANISTAN

We have seen press reports stating that people of Indian origin in Afghanistan have been subjected to harassment in the recent past but we have not received any corroborative report on the subject from other sources. According to our records, the number of Afghans of Indian origin who have come to India in the last three years is as follows :

1994	-	1937
1995	-	515
1996	-	853

ZAMBIA

The Indian origin community in southern Zambian city of Livingstone became the target of widespread looting and violence in October-November, 1995 which appeared to have been provoked by allegations of "ritual murders" and had racial overtones. Government of India expressed its concern to the Government of Zambia and asked for appropriate measures to be taken to protect the lives and property of the Indian community. The Indian High Commissioner in Lusaka also kept in touch with the representatives of Indian community regarding their welfare. There is no information of any Indians having been asked to leave the country on account of these incidents or having returned to India on their own.

KENYA

The Chairman of the opposition party, Mr. Kenneth Matiba is reported to have called for expulsion of Asians from Kenya in April-May, 1996. Government of Kenya in fact defended the Asian community against the opposition's allegations. No specific indications or precise statistics are available of the incidents which may have occured as a result of this controversy nor about the members of Indian community who may have returned to India in the wake of the controversy.

UGANDA

The Ugandan Immigration authorities raided the premises of various members of the Indian origin community as part of an ostensible drive against those working without work permits and relevant documents. 70 members of the Indian community were detained, 53 of which were released the same day and 10 were bailed out after a week and the remaining a few days later. Out High Commissioner in Kampala took up the matter with the Government of Uganda and expressed concern at the undue harassment and maltreatment meted out to the Indians who had been detained. No information is available on any of the Indians who have since been asked to leave Uganda or any of them who may have returned to India in the wake of the incident.

Many of the persons of Indian origin residing in developing countries, hold US, UK, Canada, etc.